



SALT22AR2

P R I N T M A K E R S

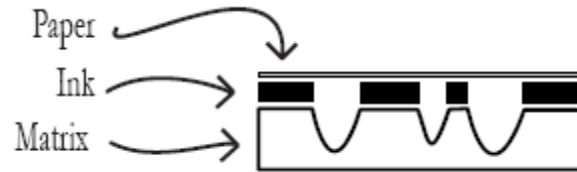
Fine Art Printmaking

Fine art prints are original works of art that result from pressing ink into paper under pressure. The four basic art-printing techniques are: **relief** (woodcut, linocut), **intaglio** (etching, engraving), **planographic** (lithograph from stone or metal plate, monotypes), and **stencil** (screenprint, serigraph). The paper on which the print is made comes in direct contact with a **matrix** (woodcut, plate, metal etching plate, litho stone, screen, etc.) that has been hand-worked by the artist. The matrix can be made by carving, etching, drawing, or other techniques. Ink is applied to the matrix, and then transferred to the paper by applying pressure using a press, or by hand. Multiple prints can be made, or pulled, from the original matrix by repeating the process of inking the matrix and applying pressure to a fresh piece of paper. The set of prints that are pulled from one matrix are known as the **edition** of the print. Because the matrix comes in direct contact with every print, the number of prints in an edition is limited. For most fine art prints the entire edition is printed by the artist or by someone directly under the artist's supervision. Original prints are traditionally signed and numbered individually in pencil by the artist, usually on the front of the print.

Reproductions, on the other hand, are not original works of art, but photo-mechanical copies of existing works. They are typically produced on a commercial printing machine with no involvement from the artist in the printing process. This can be done using offset printing (like a newspaper) or inkjet printers (Giclee, Iris), but essentially results in a poster. The number of copies that can be made is limited only by how long the copy machine is left running.

Fine Art Printing Techniques:

- Printing from the top of an incision is called **Relief**. The matrix is carved from wood, linoleum, or some other material. The part of that matrix that is carved away will hold no ink and thus be white in the resulting print. The part that is left will hold ink and thus be colored in the final print. Rubber stamps are an example of relief printing.



- Printing from the bottom of an incision is called **Intaglio**. The matrix is engraved or etched with fine lines. Ink is pressed into the lines and wiped off the surface. Paper is layered on top and pressure is applied, pulling the ink from the lines. Paper currency is printed using an intaglio technique.



- Printing from the surface of the matrix with no incision is called **Planographic** printing. The image is drawn on the matrix using some means that will hold ink on the drawing. Ink is applied and sticks only to the drawing so that the image may be transferred to the paper under pressure. Lithography is a planographic printing technique.



- Printing through holes in the matrix is known as **Stencil**. Holes are cut in the matrix allowing ink to pass through. Ink is then applied to the entire matrix, but only passes to the paper through the holes in the stencil. Silkscreen printing is an example of stencil printing.



Saltzard
P R I N T M A K E R S